

Remarks

In response to the Office Action mailed 8 July 2004, Applicant submits the following remarks.

Restriction Requirement

Apparatus and Method

The Examiner issued a restriction requirement asserting that claims 1 – 8 (Group I), are drawn to an apparatus, classified in class 118, subclass 300 and that claims 9 – 19 (Group II), are drawn to a method, classified in class 427, subclass 2.24.

Applicant elects the Group II claims, drawn to a method and has canceled claims 1-8 without prejudice or disclaimer.

Species

The Examiner indicated that the claims were directed to patentably distinct species: (i) targeting the center of the stent strut for coating and (ii) coating one side and then the other side. Currently claim 9 is generic.

Applicant elects species (i) referenced above and maintains that claim 17 is representative of this species.

Summary

In accordance with Applicant's election, claims 1-8 have been canceled, claims 10-14, 18 and 19 have been withdrawn and claims 9 and 15-17 have been amended. As a result, claims 9 and 15-17 remain in the application for examination with claim 9 being independent.

If the Examiner has any questions regarding this amendment, the Examiner is invited to call Applicant's attorney at the number listed below. The Examiner is hereby authorized to charge any fees or credit any balances under 37 CFR §§1.16 and 1.17 to Deposit Account No. 02-3038.

Respectfully submitted,



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